

A-1 TURK IN ROME CASE DETAILS SMUGGLING

But the Arms and Drug Dealer Denies Role in Papal Plot

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Special to The New York Times

ISTANBUL, Turkey, July 12 — A Turk who Mehmet Ali Agca says was a key figure in a plot to shoot Pope John Paul II has given the Turkish police a detailed account of his involvement in arms and drug-smuggling operations that he says were based in Bulgaria, according to transcripts of a four-day interrogation here.

But according to the documents, the Turk, Bekir Celenk, consistently denied that he ever knew Mr. Agca, the convicted assailant of the Pope.

Mr. Agca has said Mr. Celenk acted as intermediary for a Soviet diplomat in Bulgaria and offered Mr. Agca \$1.2 million to assassinate the Pope.

Being Tried in Rome

Mr. Agca, who is serving a life sentence in Italy for his crime, is the key witness in the trial of eight people, including Mr. Celenk, accused of conspiring to murder the Pope.

Mr. Celenk, 50 years old, had been under house arrest in Bulgaria until Sunday, when he was sent home to Turkey. He was formally arrested by the Turkish authorities today, apparently on smuggling charges, and transferred from police headquarters in Istanbul to a military prison in Ankara.

Seven single-spaced typewritten pages summarizing the results of the interrogations, which were made available for examination today, contained extensive descriptions by Mr. Celenk of shipments of weapons from such countries as West Germany and Czechoslovakia through Bulgaria to Turkey and Lebanon. The smuggled weapons, he said, were exchanged for heroin from the Middle East.

But Mr. Celenk did not implicate European or Middle Eastern governments, except to say that the operation was overseen by the Bulgarian Government through its state-owned trading company, Kintex.

The record of Mr. Celenk's interrogation contrasted sharply with public testimony he gave Wednesday to a martial-law court in Istanbul, maintaining that his only contact with the Bulgarian Government was as a sup-

NEW YORK TIMES

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plier of mineral water and fruit juice to Bulgarian trading companies.

Mr. Celenk named several dozen people — mainly Turks, but also Syrians, Armenians from Istanbul and a German — who he said were involved with him in the deals.

At least two of the people are known to European drug enforcement officials. Sabri Ugurlu, one of five brothers charged by Turkish investigators with being members of a Turkish group deeply involved in international arms and drug smuggling, was one of them. Mehmet Cakir, also named by Mr. Celenk, was arrested in Switzerland in 1983 in a major drug sweep that seized eight Turks, four Italians and an Armenian from Beirut.

Jörg Schild, a drug prosecutor in Basel, Switzerland, has said the case involved large shipments of heroin from the Middle East via Bulgaria to Switzerland and northern Italy.

The Swiss police have traced more than 1 million Swiss francs — about \$410,000 — through a complex money-laundering process involving several Swiss banks and watch-trading companies. They say the amounts traced are probably only the tip of the iceberg.

Mr. Cakir, another Turk and an Armenian were released on bail pending the conclusion of an investigation.

Mr. Celenk said he was introduced to Kintex, the Bulgarian trading company, by a Syrian arms dealer he identified as Teyfik Debbes.

Mr. Celenk described in detail how he was introduced to smuggling as a youth in the Turkish border town of Kilis, near Syria, where he said contraband was a major source of income.

Names German Contact

Mr. Celenk said his contact in the West German arms trade was named Gunther Leihnauzer. But he gave no further details about him and said arms deliveries from West Germany fell off in the 1970's, when a Social Democrat-led Government replaced the conservative Christian Democrats who had governed since 1949.

Besides denying he ever knew Mr. Agca, Mr. Celenk also denied knowing Oral Celik, another Turk who Mr. Agca says was engaged by Mr. Celenk and took part in the shooting of the Pope.

He said he met Omer Mersan, another Turk implicated by Mr. Agca in the shooting, only once briefly at the hospital bedside of a mutual friend. He said he met Musa Sedar Celebi, another defendant in the Rome trial, in Frankfurt in 1978. But he described Mr. Celebi as a casual acquaintance.

Mr. Celenk told the police interrogators that Mr. Agca had probably learned of him from newspaper articles by a Turkish investigative reporter, Ugur Mumcu. But he did not know why Mr. Agca implicated him or the Bulgarian and Soviet secret services in a plot to kill the Pope, he said.

Turkish military justice officials, who are responsible for smuggling charges, said Mr. Celenk would prob-

ably stand trial on charges of drug and arms smuggling.

Statute of Limitations Cited

But it remained unclear today just how much of Mr. Celenk's smuggling activities fell under Turkey's 10-year statute of limitations for such crimes.

The Italian Government is seeking Mr. Celenk's extradition to stand trial in the purported plot against the Pope and to face charges by an Italian Judge, Carlo Palermo, of involvement in an extensive international arms and drug smuggling ring.

Antonio Marini, the prosecutor in the Rome trial, is expected in Istanbul shortly to begin two days of consultations with Turkish police officials about Mr. Celenk's testimony.

The Turkish Government, citing the nation's Constitution and penal code, said it could not extradite a Turkish national to a foreign country like Italy to stand trial on a criminal offense.

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